Ser. No.: (10/597,954 – Nat. Stage of PCT/JP2004/001465)

Preliminary Amendment Atty Docket 114116.00032

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to substitute "wherein" for "characterized in that"

consistent with US custom with regard to claim format. Claim 2 has also been amended to

additionally recite the use of a hybrid material containing inorganic and organic material.

Claims 6 and 13-16 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for all elements of

those claims. New claims 17-20 have been added. Support for these amendments to the claims

may be found in paragraph 0018 of the substitute specification which was previously

submitted. As a result of this amendment, 2 independent claims and 20 total claims are

currently pending.

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition to permit allowance and

request early and favorable disposition of this application. No fees are believed to be due with

this amendment. However, in the event that a fee is required with the filing of this paper, the

Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or to credit any overpayment associated with the

filing of this paper to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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6

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